

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NSC BRIEFING

6 September 1960

IRAN

- I. The Shah, in an attempt to shift the blame from himself for the openly rigged parliamentary elections, forced the resignation of Premier Eqbal on 28 August, and brought about the resignations of all winning candidates. Eqbal's party had already won a majority of the 200 seats.
- A. The regime has discontinued the elections and plans to hold new ones after a committee appointed by the Shah amends the electoral law. Doubtful, however, if new elections will be any more honest.
- B. Sharif Emami, the 51-year-old pro-Western minister of industry and mines, has been appointed acting premier. The new cabinet contains nine new members and six holdovers from the Eqbal cabinet.
- C. It is not clear whether these new moves by the Shah will have the effect of buying time for the regime or of accelerating its downfall.
- D. In any case the Shah's actions probably will not increase significantly the longer run chances for the regime's survival.
- II. Security forces still appear to be capable and willing to break up anti-regime demonstrations.
- A. Police easily dispersed a demonstration of nationalist students in Tehran on 1 September.
- B. We continued to be concerned, however, that disaffection will spread to the police and army.

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